

Overall crime stats down in La Porte for another year

La Porte Police Department

Media Relations Information

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The 2013 crime statistics for the City of La Porte were recently released by the Police Department and once again showed an overall decrease in crime. The 5.1% reduction in overall crime within La Porte for 2012-2013 followed 7.6% and 5.7% reductions in crime for the previous years of 2011 and 2012. Initial figures collected from neighboring police agencies for 2013 also indicate that the crime rate of La Porte remains among the lowest when compared to neighboring cities and is 34% below the national average for crime rates among cities with a population similar to La Porte (25,000 and 50,000 citizens).

All Texas police agencies are required to submit crime statistics to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) on a monthly basis. DPS then forwards these figures to the FBI, which is responsible for compiling crime information for all cities in the United States. The statistics reported must meet specific criteria set forth within the FBI's National Uniform Crime Report (UCR) System and are tallied at the end of each year. Crimes tracked under the UCR System include both violent crimes, such as murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, as well as property crimes, including burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

For the year 2013, the City of La Porte showed a decrease among the majority of the UCR crime categories with the exception of Robbery and Vehicle Thefts. Of the nine Robberies reported, five were of businesses and four individual citizens. However, the majority of the business robberies were committed by the same suspects in a sort time-period, and the group was identified and arrested by La Porte PD detectives within days of their string of offenses. Regarding stolen vehicles, of the 43 reported offenses, approximately half, 20, occurred in hotel or business parking lots overnight, where contract labor pickup trucks are known to frequent.

For more information on Uniform Crime Reporting statistics in Texas, log onto the Texas DPS website at www.txdps.state.tx.us. Additionally, a link to Uniform Crime Reporting information for the City of La Porte and its neighboring communities can also be found at www.ci.laporte.tx.us/gov/police/ucrstats.